

WALLINGFORD SYSTEM-WIDE PTAC MINUTES

TUESDAY, 4/8/14 MEETING

Attendees:

Christine Lion	Dag Parent
Rhonda Ranney	Dag Parent
Cheryl Wolansky	Lyman Hall Parent
Deb Strickland	Sheehan Parent
Susanne Jordan	Sheehan Parent, Vice-Chair System-Wide
Patti Ficcorilli	Moran Parent
Tammy Raccio	Moran Parent, System-Wide President
Karen Hlavac	BOE
Mike Votto	BOE
Shawn Parkhusrt	Asst. Superintendent
Sal Menzo	Superintendent

BUDGET UPDATE

Dr. Menzo delivered an overview of the budget shortfall between the proposed BOE budget for 2014/2015 of \$95,231,505 and the Mayor's proposal of \$93,287,605 resulting in an original shortfall of \$1,943,900, which requires reductions to the BOE Budget proposal. Dr. Menzo is presenting the proposed reductions and their impact on education programs Wednesday, 4/9.

To recap the following initiatives could be affected by these reductions:

- Nothing originally proposed as part of the Strategic Plan will be able to be implemented, including the Lyman Hall Track.
- Preschool programs and early childhood investments will have to be cut. This is of major concern, as many districts have implemented these programs. Wallingford is falling into the minority. It's believed, through extensive research, that implementing Early Childhood education programs get students prepared academically for school, which has a significant impact on higher education stats like graduation rates, and college bound students.
- Administrative Interns at the Elementary school level
- Guidance Coordinators
- Athletics at the Middle School and High School Levels
- STEP program
- Music Programs
- Classroom sizes would increase

Dr. Menzo's full presentation of the budget deficit can be made available if necessary.

It was noted that we do not receive state money for any of the above academic initiatives because Wallingford is not financially at the level to qualify for this assistance. Full-day Kindergarten would solve some of the early Childhood academic issues, however that is being implemented over the next few years and is not an immediate fix.

Myra Taylor Jones will be starting in May as the new Director Office of Early Childhood for the SDE. On May 7th she will make a presentation regarding preschool initiatives and has many years of expertise/research results in this area.

The Town's educational system has a significant impact and direct correlation to real estate values in our community. Dr. Menzo meets annually with the Board of Realtors to provide information on school programs and initiatives which assists in marketing Wallingford to incoming families. A reduction of this magnitude to our town's BOE budget could have significant and negative impact on our real estate values.

Dr. Menzo suggested that we are open to any/all suggestions to cut expenses in the budget. He has proposed consolidating town resources i.e. transportation, printing, courier etc. to cut costs. Everyone agreed this should definitely be a consideration.

It was suggested that the middle schools and high schools start time coincide in order to share busing. North Haven has recently implemented this and it saves the town significant money, as buses at the high-school level are not at capacity and wasting money.

After all of the proposed reductions were rolled up, the budget still has a shortfall of \$515.0K.

The budget proposal is slated to go public before the town council on 5/6 and parent attendance to defend school programs is highly encouraged. PTAC chairs and members should bring budget info back to their respective PTAC's and encourage parents to attend this important meeting.

2014-2015 School calendar info is not yet out (after April 28th meeting).

First Hubcap Summer Job Fair scheduled for tonight (April 8th).

As a follow-up to school bus safety with cameras, a subcommittee has been formed. Currently research is being gathered in order to present the benefits of outside cameras to key stakeholders in Wallingford. April 28 is the Bus Safety Subcommittee meeting @5:30pm.

The next District-wide PTAC is May 12th @ 6pm.